



NEWS RELEASE
*Office of the
United States Attorney
for the
District of Nebraska*
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March 20, 2009

United States Attorney Joe W. Stecher and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives announce the following information for the attention of the media:

Event Triggering this Release: On March 20, 2009, a federal Grand Jury returned a series of indictments charging Jason Hawthorne, Michael Davis, Chad Winters, Kenny Dofner, Gregory Stanek, Bradford Winnie, Jeffrey Welker and Justin Snelling with multiple drug and firearms offenses arising from their alleged involvement in methamphetamine and marijuana distribution. Certain of the defendants are also charged with being convicted felons in possession of firearms and with possession of stolen firearms. The indictments also seek the forfeiture of cash and firearms. Hawthorne is named in 19 counts, Davis in 8 counts, Winters in 5 counts, Dofner in 5 counts, Stanek in 5 counts, Winnie in 3 counts, Welker in 8 counts and Snelling in 6 counts. The firearms charges relate to various shotguns, both long-barreled and short-barreled, rifles and pistols.

Names of Defendants: Jason Hawthorne, Chad Winters, Kenny Dofner, Gregory and Justin Snelling

Age and city of residence:

Jason Hawthorne 34, Council Bluffs, IA
Michael Davis 28, Council Bluffs, IA
Chad Winters 28, Omaha, NE
Kenny Dofner 26, Council Bluffs, IA
Gregory Stanek 46, Omaha, NE
Bradford Winnie 54, Blair, NE
Jeffrey Welker 28, Omaha, NE
Justin Snelling 26, Omaha, NE

Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty: Conspiracy to distribute- 10 years to life imprisonment, up to a \$4,000,000 fine, 5 years of supervised release and a \$100 special assessment; Poss of a firearm during a drug trafficking crime 10yrsConsecutive-life, up to a

\$250,000 fine, 3 years of supervised release and a \$100 SA; Felon in possession of a firearm, up to 10 years in prison, up to a \$250,000 fine and a 3 years supervised release with \$100 SA; Possession of an unregistered firearm, up to 10 years imprisonment, up to a \$250,000 fine, 3 years supervised release and a \$100 SA; Possession of stolen firearms, up to 10 years imprisonment, up to a \$250,000 fine, 3 years supervised release and a \$100 SA; Distribution of marijuana, up to 5 years in prison, up to a \$250,000 fine, 2 years supervised release and a \$100 SA; Distribution of methamphetamine, 5 to 40 years in prison, up to \$2,000,000 fine, 4 years supervised release and a \$100 SA; Conspiracy to distribute and possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine, 5 to 40 years in prison, up to \$2,000,000 fine, 4 years supervised release and a \$100 SA; Possession of a firearm during a drug trafficking crime, 10 years consecutive to life, up to a \$250,000 fine, 3 years supervision and a \$100 SA.

Specific Location of Alleged Crime: Nebraska

Location of Arrest:

Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug: methamphetamine and marijuana

Others Charged in Same Scheme: NA

Relevant Dates:

Date of Alleged Crime: September of 2008 through February of 2009

Federal Arrest Date:

Date Complaint Issued: February 27, 2009

Indictment Returned Date: March 20, 2009.

Initial Appearance Date:

Plea or Trial and Date(s):

Next Court Hearing Type and Date: Initial appearance and arraignment

Assigned Magistrate Judge: Yet to be determined

Held without Bond, or Released from Custody: Will be determined at initial appearance

Assigned District Court Judge: Yet to be determined

Initials of Assigned AUSA/Preparer of THIS Release: JWS